



## Recipe for Building Neighborhood Camaraderie



Matthew Turissini paints a mural on the roof of his West Cottage Grove home. Paint for the project was donated for the three panel mural. Photo Belvia Hiadari

Five days. Five houses. Add a group of hard-working people and throw in a dash of neighborly goodwill.

These were some of the ingredients that made for a very successful “barn raising,” or as it was sometimes referred to—Amish Week—in the West Cottage Grove neighborhood this past May.

What started as a conversation among neighbors about big projects that they were working on at their own homes grew into a full-fledged neighborhood undertaking. Five houses participated in the endeavor—with projects ranging from building drains to framing out rooms to everything in-between.

The group decided to devote an entire day to each house, regardless of the size of the projects. Work started around 8:00 a.m. and ended around 7:00 p.m. each of the nights. Approximately 12 people came out to help each day. Lunch and dinner were provided by one of the houses not being worked on that day.

“Having all that momentum kept it all together,” said Matthew Turissini, one of the homeowners participating in the project.

The work at Turissini’s own home included the removal of a shed and garden work. Work at other houses included the removal of insulation, carpet and the installation of a door and a French drain.

Homeowners were responsible for organizing the projects for their home. If any materials were necessary for the project, they were purchased ahead of time.

Turissini’s offered some advice to other neighborhoods interested in organizing similar projects.

“Pre-planning for food is a good idea. While the majority of folks work at one house, another house sponsors food for the day. This way a couple of people can work on getting food together for the group, while everyone else is still working.”

Additionally, Turissini recommended devoting one day per house, with a rain plan developed in case of weather concerns.

Of the experience, Turissini said, “It was neat because we put a lot of energy into it.”

And energy, without a doubt, is one of the most important ingredients included in any good recipe for building neighborhood camaraderie.

# Blooming Neighborhood Celebration

On Saturday, June 5, 2004 Bloomington Neighborhoods gathered together to give recognition to all the neighborhood folks who nurture and grow wonderful ideas and projects. Here is a synopsis of each of neighborhood's story that received an award.



**Mayor's Excellence Award** - went to **Prospect Hill Neighborhood Association** for their *Lefty Galloway Oral History and Headstone Restoration Project*. Prospect Hill residents were excited about this project because it achieved several goals for the neighborhood: restoration of an historic headstone, profiling the life of a Prospect Hill neighbor, informing community of a history they were not aware of, and continuation of their oral history project.

**City Council Neighborhood Enhancement Award** - went to **Highland Village Neighborhood Association** for their work on developing and maintaining a beautification program for Highland Village Park. The HVNA residents have dedicated countless hours in planting, watering and maintaining the gardens they established in the park. They have also worked with the parks & Recreation Dept. to make upgrades to the park including a new multi-use path.

**HAND Neighbor of the Year Award** went to **Jack Baker of McDoel Gardens**. Jack's neighbors credit him for his gregarious and tenacious manner that reaps results whether the issue is large or small. His fair-minded approach and desire to empower others has helped generate a growing neighborhood of active and involved residents. Jack serves countless hours in representing neighborhood issues and interest at City Hall.

**Mayor's  
Excellence  
Award**

**Prospect Hill  
Neighborhood Association**

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**Special Recognition**

**Bryan Park  
Neighborhood Association**



Mayor Mark Kruzan with Prospect Hill residents  
Bill Sturbaum and Lucy Schaich



City Council Representatives, Mike Diekhoff  
and Tim Mayer with Bob Sanders of  
Highland Village.

**City Council  
Neighborhood  
Enhancement  
Award**

**Highland Village  
Neighborhood Association**

~

**Special Recognition**

**Bryan Park  
Neighborhood Association**

**HAND Neighbor  
Of the Year  
**Jack Baker  
McDoel Gardens****

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**Special Recognition**

- Lucy Schaich - Prospect Hill
- Lois Sabo-Skelton - Green Acres



Lisa Abbott of the HAND Department and  
Jack Baker from McDoel Gardens.

# Welcome to the neighborhood!

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It is about that time of year where new renters start moving into our neighborhoods. **Housing and Neighborhood Development (HAND) Department** has staff and resources to help educate both homeowners and renters on the ordinances and codes that Bloomington has implemented to help preserve the quality of our neighborhoods. If you have any questions or concerns feel free to call the HAND Office at 349-3420 or go to our website at [www.bloomington.in.gov/hand](http://www.bloomington.in.gov/hand)

On the previous page you will find the “Guide to living in Bloomington Neighborhoods” - feel free to make copies to pass out in your neighborhood or call Vickie at 349-3505 and I will make the number of copies you need. You can attach them to your newsletter or make personal visits to welcome new residents.

Many neighborhoods have a “welcome to the neighborhood letter” they distribute to greet new residents to let them know about their neighborhood association and to help them learn all the responsibilities that come with living in a neighborhood such as, trash day, parking regulations and Quiet Nights.

Remember that a personal visit to welcome new renters can set the stage for neighborly exchange for their stay.

**“Of neighborhoods, benevolence is the most beautiful. How can the man be considered wise who when he had the choice does not choose benevolence.” ~ Confucius**

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***Additional copies are available by  
calling HAND at 349-3420***